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LETTER DATED 5 MARCH 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia fully shares the Security Council's concern over the continuation of war in former Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly over the escalation of the conflict in eastern Bosnia. We also appreciate the interest of the Security Council and the United Nations as a whole in putting an early end to the civil, religious and inter-ethnic war in former Bosnia-Herzegovina.

However, it is our impression that the States members of the Security Council, as well as the broader international public, are not in possession of all relevant facts concerning the present escalation of the conflict in former Bosnia-Herzegovina, so we consider that it would be useful if the Security Council members were advised of these facts while taking their positions and stands in the future.

For more than two months the Muslim forces have pursued a military offensive in former Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly in eastern Bosnia. In that offensive the Muslim forces destroy entire Serb settlements in the most brutal way and carry out genocidal violence and massacres of the Serb population. All this is known to the world public since it was reported by world television, press and radio corporations.

It is of particular concern that, in addition to the offensive against the Serb population in the territory of former Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Muslim forces do not stop short of overt attack against the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

On 31 December 1992, in the afternoon, Muslim extremists fired from the territory of former Bosnia-Herzegovina a number of mortar shells at the Perucac hydroelectric power plant near Bajina Basta. During the shelling, one grenade fell also in the area of the municipality of Ljubovija, causing substantial material damage.

On 1 January 1993, Muslim forces opened small-arms fire from the Josanicka Reka area across the Drina River at vehicles and passers-by on the Mali Zvornik-Ljubovija road in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The traffic was halted for two hours.

On 7 January 1993, Muslim forces carried out an infantry attack against the village of Kravica in the municipality of Bratunac and captured the strategically important hamlet of Siljkovici. Nine citizens of Serb nationality were killed and 20 wounded in that attack. The surviving villagers fled the same day to the villages of Uzovnice, Crnce and Lacin in the municipality of Ljubovija in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. About 300 refugees from Kravica were accommodated in these villages and in Ljubovija itself.

On 8 January 1993, at 9.30 a.m., Muslim forces from the area of the village of Markovici (Bosnia-Herzegovina) opened small-arms fire at the Perucac security post in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

On 10 January 1993, at about 3 p.m., Muslim forces from the area of the village of Voljevica (Bosnia-Herzegovina), opened fire from two anti-aircraft machine-guns at the area of the villages of Grabovica and Podnemic, about 3 kilometres south of Ljubovija.

On 15 January 1993, Muslim forces opened mortar fire (15 grenades) from the area of the village of Bjelovac (Bosnia-Herzegovina) at the village of Grabovica in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

On 16 January 1993, in early morning hours, Muslim extremists carried out a frontal attack against the Serb border municipality of Skelani. The bridge connecting this township with Bajina Basta was also engaged with heavy fire, because of which evacuation of the wounded and civilians was halted for several hours. On that occasion the extremists burnt down all Serb villages upstream the Drina River in the municipality of Skelani. Muslim forces also attacked the town of Bajina Basta and the Perucac security post. Fifteen grenades fell on the town itself and 25 on the security post. One person was injured and a local department store and adjacent buildings in the town of Bajina Basta were substantially damaged. In addition, Muslim forces opened heavy fire at bridge access roads and the bridge at Skelani itself over which the civilian population fled and the wounded and dead were being evacuated. Muslim infantry men reached the bridge itself and threatened to prevent the evacuation of, and to massacre, the refugees, the wounded and the dead, while a few members of the Muslim army crossed in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

On 17 January 1993, Muslim forces fired twice (from 3-9 p.m.) several shells from 60-mm mortars and a WASP rocket launcher at the Perucac hydroelectric power plant and security post. The attacks were carried out from the territory of former Bosnia-Herzegovina. Small-arms fire was opened also at the "Jagostica" security post.

On 18 January 1993, Muslim forces from the area of the village of Kunjevac attacked the area of the village of Grabovac in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, firing nine grenades from an 82-mm mortar. There were no casualties and no damage was done.

On the same day a group of Muslims tried to cross into the area of Bajina Basta and Perucac in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from the territory of former Bosnia-Herzegovina.

On 20 January 1993, about 3.30 p.m., Muslim forces fired three grenades from an 82-mm mortar at the area of Bajina Basta.

On 21 January 1993, Muslim forces carried out a general attack against the village of Setihovo and the valleys of Strmica and Stragacine in the municipality of Rudo (Bosnia-Herzegovina) in the vicinity of the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, using poison gases in that attack. Several hundreds of civilians of Serb nationality from that region fled before the Muslim units to the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia towards Priboj.

On 24 January 1993, Muslim forces opened fire on four occasions at a border patrol of the army of Yugoslavia in the area of Bajina Basta.

On 25 January 1993, Muslim forces from the area of the village of Osatica (Bosnia-Herzegovina) opened machine-gun fire on several occasions at the Perucac hydroelectric power plant and at customs officials of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at the security posts of Sjeverin and Raca belonging to the 16th frontier battalion from Bajina Basta.

On 29 January 1993, Muslim forces shelled the area of Perucac. Seven 62- and 82-mm mortar shells fired from the territory of former Bosnia-Herzegovina landed in the vicinity of the hydroelectric power plant and the Jezero hotel in which members of the army of Yugoslavia were accommodated. The Jezero hotel was damaged in this attack.

On the same day, Muslim extremists shelled a facility of the army of Yugoslavia in the village of Podnemic in the municipality of Bajina Basta.

On 31 January 1993, Zoran Bogdanovic, born in 1966 at Rastiste, was killed on the Perucac-Rastiste road in the municipality of Bajina Basta by a sniper bullet fired from the territory of former Bosnia-Herzegovina. This road was under the sniper fire of Muslim extremists all day long.

On 3 February 1993, a mortar shell was fired and exploded in the Stara Ljubovija settlement in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Two houses and the power transmission lines were damaged from the explosion.

On 5 February 1993, Muslim units opened fire at the area of Vrhpolje, the municipality of Ljubovija. On that occasion a soldier of the frontier unit of the army of Yugoslavia was hit with a sniper bullet.

On the same day, Muslim extremists carried out aggression against the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the vicinity of Plevlja, attacking two border villages of Kovacevici and Zmeljani.

On 6 February 1993, Muslim forces continued the operations from the territory of former Bosnia-Herzegovina against the area of Plevlja. From the positions at Ogleceve and Bukovice fire was opened against members of the army of Yugoslavia. On that occasion one soldier of the army of Yugoslavia was killed and one wounded.

On the same day, Muslim extremists, stationed at Kunjarac, in the municipality of Bratunac, opened fire across the Drina River at members of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia at Vrhpolje, in the municipality of Ljubovija.

On 7 February 1993, Muslim forces from the area of the municipality of Srebrenica opened fire at the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The fire was targeted at the members of the army of Yugoslavia and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia stationed in the village of Jagostica, in the municipality of Bajina Basta. Three mortar shells were fired at the security post of the army of Yugoslavia at Jagostica. Muslim extremists also opened fire from two boats on the Drina River at the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

On 10 February 1993, Muslim forces stationed in the locality of Nazuk, in the municipality of Zvornik, fired a 205-mm artillery shell at Banja Koviljaca. The shell landed in the close vicinity of the elementary school in that town and caused substantial material damage.

On 13 February 1993, Muslim extremists massacred the civilian population in the villages of Pisanica, Trpinje and Ponikve, in the municipality of Cajnice. During the attack against the said villages the Muslim forces violated the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the area of Plevlja.

Of particular concern is the fact that Muslim forces have directed their attacks at the Perucac hydroelectric power plant dam near Bajina Basta with the intent to destroy it. There is no need to assure you of the disastrous consequences that would ensue from the destruction of the Perucac hydroelectric power plant from the aspect of human casualties, material damage and the environment.

These facts are clear evidence that, by committing aggression against the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Muslim forces and their leadership not only carry out continued violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of a sovereign State, a United Nations Member State, in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, but also have the intention to provoke international armed intervention.

At the same time I wish to inform you that the destruction of the Visegrad hydroelectric power plant is the aim of the latest offensives of the Muslim forces in eastern Bosnia. Destruction of the Visegrad hydroelectric power plant would, among other things, cause the destruction of the old Drina bridge at Visegrad, a historic and cultural medieval monument of first-rate significance for Europe.

I am confident that the Security Council will accord appropriate attention to, and bear in mind, the facts I have presented as it considers the situation in former Bosnia-Herzegovina in the future.

I take this opportunity to draw your attention once again to the fact that, like on countless previous occasions during the civil war in former Bosnia-Herzegovina and the negotiations conducted with the aim of bringing an

end to that war, the Muslim forces have launched a massive military offensive precisely at the time when important meetings are being prepared for the purpose of finding a solution to the crisis in former Bosnia-Herzegovina or at the time when progress is being made in the negotiations and when they are yielding positive results. This offensive, which is still under way, has the same aim, too. May I also point out that this offensive and attacks against the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are aimed not only at provoking foreign intervention but also at drawing the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia into the civil war in former Bosnia-Herzegovina.

I assure you that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will continue to display maximum restraint with regard to all these provocations since an urgent and unconditional cessation of war rather than its continuation and escalation in former Bosnia-Herzegovina is in its paramount interest.

I wish to point out also on this occasion that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia continues to uphold the principle of a peaceful solution to the civil war in former Bosnia-Herzegovina and stands ready to render its own maximum contribution towards achieving that end. Rest assured that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will unconditionally accept each and every solution to the crisis in former Bosnia-Herzegovina on which all three sides to the conflict achieve an agreement.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.